



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 21, 2007

S. 310

Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on May 10, 2007

S. 310 would set forth a process for establishing and recognizing a Native Hawaiian governing entity that would act on behalf of its members with the state and the federal government. CBO estimates that implementing S. 310 would cost about \$1 million per year over the 2008-2010 period and less than \$500,000 in each subsequent year, assuming the appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The bill would establish the United States Office for Native Hawaiian Relations within the Department of the Interior (DOI). This office would be responsible for developing and overseeing the federal relationship with the Native Hawaiian governing entity. Based on information from DOI, CBO expects that this office would require up to three full-time staff. S. 310 also would create a nine-member commission responsible for collecting and certifying a membership roll of adult Native Hawaiians. Based on the deadlines specified in the bill as well as information from DOI, CBO expects that this commission would need three years and three full-time staff to complete its work.

S. 310 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this legislation could lead to the creation of a new government to represent native Hawaiians. The transfer of any land or other assets to this new government, including land now controlled by the state of Hawaii, would be the subject of future negotiations.

On May 15, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 505, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 2, 2007. The two versions of the bill are similar, and our cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Daniel Hoople (for federal costs) and Marjorie Miller (for the impact on state, local, and tribal governments). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.